
Regional Council Activity Report

June 23, 2004



Executive Director's Report

On June 23rd, we held the Sixth Desert Peaks Awards program to honor individuals and partnerships that exemplify regional cooperation (see summary on page 3). This celebration of excellence is more than just a chance to pat award winners on the back – it is an important reminder of the many collaborative efforts taking place every day in every corner of our region.

While participants in five partnership projects and two individual award categories ultimately took home the top honors, there were 35 highly-qualified nominees, representing scores of individuals and agencies, that are all doing outstanding work in making this region a better place to live. Reading through the summary of nominees in the printed program the night of the event, it struck home just how many great efforts are taking place at all levels throughout the region. It is an impressive list of projects – all of which are built on partnerships that rely on cooperation to be successful.

This year, we also presented the first-ever “Summit” award. The award is the highest honor ever bestowed by MAG, and it was created to recognize the very unique collaboration that took place with the development of the Regional Transportation Plan. There were so many individuals and organizations involved in the development of the Plan, so many people pulling together from all sectors, it was clear that a special award was needed to recognize this outstanding achievement. The pinnacle of these efforts was reached when the governor signed into law a bill that allows Valley voters to decide their transportation future.

The Desert Peaks Awards allowed us to recognize the many innovative efforts taking place in our region. But the true winners are the region's residents, who have a better place to live because of local governments, private businesses, and individuals working together to solve shared challenges.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.



Regional Council Meeting Report for June 23, 2004

Regional Council Elects Officers

The MAG Regional Council has elected its officers for the coming year. Positions and their new representatives include:

- ◆ Chair – Mayor Keno Hawker, City of Mesa
- ◆ Vice Chair – Mayor Woody Thomas, City of Litchfield Park
- ◆ Treasurer – Mayor Mary Manross, City of Scottsdale
- ◆ At-Large Member – Mayor James Cavanaugh, City of Goodyear
- ◆ At-Large Member – Mayor Phil Gordon, City of Phoenix
- ◆ At-Large Member – Mayor Joan Shafer, City of Surprise
- ◆ Past Chair – Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Town of Queen Creek

The MAG Executive Committee is charged with conducting business that arises between meetings of the Regional Council. The Executive Committee also serves as the organization's Finance Committee.

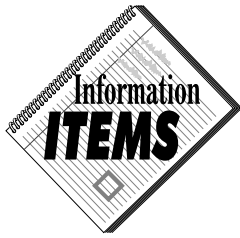
For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

Regional Council Names TPC Members

The Regional Council has appointed the members and officers of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). Mayor Elaine Scruggs of Glendale has been named Chair and Vice Mayor Peggy Bilsten of Phoenix as Vice Chair. Other new members to the committee include Hugh Hallman, incoming mayor for the City of Tempe; Mayor Ron Badowski, Town of Wickenburg; and Jacob Moore, Special Assistant on Congressional and Legislative Affairs of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Under House Bill 2456, which was signed into law in February, the incumbent representatives of the private sector on the TPC would serve until December 31, 2004 and may be reappointed by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House. However, because this section of HB 2456 was subject to a conditional enactment and is not in effect unless the tax continuation is approved by voters in November, the Regional Council appointed all representatives, including private sector members, pending the outcome of the election.

For more information please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

Maricopa County Requests Assistance to Control West Nile Virus

The Maricopa County Environmental Services Department and the Public Health Department appealed to MAG member agencies for help in addressing the West Nile virus. The virus is borne by mosquitos and was first detected in the United States in 1999. Several dozen cases have been reported in Maricopa County, and the first virus-related death occurred June 18. The majority of people and animals that are infected with the virus have a mild illness or no symptoms.

Maricopa County asked Regional Council members for assistance in controlling mosquitos on public property, assistance in communicating the issue through municipal public information offices and in receiving calls from the public regarding potential cases.

To decrease the risk of exposure to mosquitos and the infections they carry, the Arizona Department of Health Services recommends avoiding outside activity after dusk, wearing long pants and sleeves, applying insect repellent, making sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens, draining standing water, and changing water in outside flower pots, bird baths and pet dishes at least twice per week.

For more information, please contact the State Public Health Hotline at (602) 364-4500, or visit the Web site at www.hs.state.az.us.



Desert Peaks Awards Presented

The Sixth Maricopa Association of Governments Desert Peaks Awards were held on June 23rd following the Annual Meeting. The awards honor individuals and partnerships that demonstrate a commitment to regionalism. A special "Summit Award" was held to honor those involved in the development of a new Regional Transportation Plan, the most significant transportation planning effort the region has undergone in 40 years. Other award recipients included the City of Glendale Chemical Weapon Full-Scale Exercise in the category of Public Partnership; Employers Against Domestic Violence and the City of Glendale/Phoenix Coyotes/The Ellman Companies Development Project, which both received awards in the category of Public-Private Partnership; Jeff Martin, Assistant Development Services Manager, City of Mesa, who took home the award for Professional Service; the San

Tan Mountains Regional Park Master Plan in the category of Regional Partnership; and Representative Gary Pierce (R-Mesa), who was honored with the Regional Excellence award.

For more information contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Next Regional Council Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council will be held on Wednesday, July 28, 2004 at the MAG offices, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include a Requested Change to the FY 2004 MAG Regional Freeway Program; Maricopa County Department of Transportation Update; Update on Maricopa County Fugitive Dust Control Rules; State Trust Land Reform; and Preparations for Conducting the 2005 Census Survey.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.